

New York (NY-19) 2026

US House of Representatives

THE ISSUES

PETER
OBERACKER

REPUBLICAN



JOSH
RILEY

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT



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ABORTION Ban or legal?	Likely ban. Voted against codifying abortion rights in the New York State Constitution. Voted against providing “practical support for access to abortion care,” including reimbursement. Voted against a bill ensuring the legality of certain abortion drugs under New York law in the event of federal regulatory changes.	Legal. Sponsored a bill to “ restore the full protections of Roe v. Wade.” Sponsored a bill protecting interstate travel for abortion services. Opposes “attempts to restrict access to mifepristone,” an abortion drug. Says women should make their own “healthcare decisions.”
CLIMATE CHANGE Should climate change be a top priority?	No. “We need to repeal the radical... climate law .” Sponsored a bill to “defund” the Office of Renewable Energy Siting: it pushes “massive solar projects into rural communities.” Voted against requiring fossil fuel companies to fund climate infrastructure.	Yes. “ Climate change is an existential threat.” Voted against ending Biden-era clean energy tax credits . Called for “federal investments in clean-energy advanced manufacturing” in upstate NY. Would give “EPA the clear authority it needs...to combat climate change.” Would “eliminate subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.”
CRIMINAL JUSTICE How to ensure effectiveness and fairness in law enforcement?	Would “end cashless bail” and “restore judicial discretion.” Called for investing in “critical investigatory and prosecutorial resources” for “local Law enforcement.” Would “increase efforts and investments to end the opioid and mental health epidemics.” Voted against automatically sealing conviction records for certain crimes once a sentence is completed and an individual has remained a law abiding citizen for a required period of time.	Supports ending “mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenses.” Would reform NY’s cashless bail policy. Supports “sealing records for certain non-violent offenses.” Called for “full funding” of a grant program to provide bulletproof vests for rural officers. Says “helping people find good jobs and housing after paying their debts” would “reduce recidivism.”
ECONOMY Cut or increase government investment in, and regulation of, the economy?	Mostly cut. Supports “streamlining...rulemaking and licensing practices.” Sponsored a bill to ease the “administrative burden” on businesses. Opposes “reckless spending.” Opposes “business-crippling regulations.” Supports funding infrastructure and broadband access.	Mostly increase. Supported \$369 billion in clean energy investments; said it “will create good jobs in renewable energy.” Calls for “preserv[ing] and expand[ing] investments like the CHIPS & Science Act.” Calls for investing in rural infrastructure. Would cut “bureaucratic red tape to speed up local infrastructure projects.”
ENVIRONMENT Loosen or tighten environmental regulation?	Mixed. Sponsored a bill expanding Sullivan County’s ability to preserve farmlands. Voted against banning the sale of certain products with PFAS . Supports “regulatory reform” and “rationalizing the environmental review process.”	Tighten. “We must do everything possible to protect [our environment].” Sponsored a bill to “ force corporate polluters to pay” for PFAS contamination. Sponsored a bill to protect the Delaware River Basin. Sponsored a bill to expand “ recycling infrastructure in rural communities.”

ISSUES	OBERACKER (R)	RILEY (D)
GUN LAWS Loosen or tighten gun laws?	Mostly loosen. Is “dedicated to defending ” 2nd Amendment rights. Praised a Supreme Court decision rejecting NY’s law regulating concealed carry. Voted against a 10-day waiting period for gun purchases. Supports higher penalties for possessing “an illegal loaded handgun.”	Tighten. Sponsored a bill requiring background checks for “firearm transfers between private parties.” Sponsored a bill requiring safe gun storage in residential homes. Opposed “weapons of war” in the streets. Said those “convicted of domestic violence... can’t have a gun.”
HEALTHCARE Increase or decrease government support for healthcare?	Mixed. Opposed a NY state single-payer health plan . Voted against a bill that sought to lower prescription prices and increase access to affordable drugs. Voted to eliminate insulin co-pays. Supports increasing rural healthcare choices.	Increase. “Healthcare should be a civil right.” Voted to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies for 3 years. Sponsored a bill “ empowering Medicare to negotiate” drug prices and cap “out-of-pocket prescription costs.” Sponsored a bill to fund rural hospitals: “It will help keep the doors open.”
IMMIGRATION How to handle immigration?	“I stand in support of those who come here legally.” Opposes sanctuary cities. Signed a letter to the NY governor saying, “local officials should have the option to decline hosting migrants.” Twice sponsored bills requiring local and state police to notify ICE when they arrest a noncitizen.	Would “hire new border agents” to “deter illegal immigration.” Would “hire more immigration judges” to expedite asylum claims. Voted against increasing ICE funding by \$75 billion , then against \$70 billion more for DHS. Supports “a pathway to legal status” for those “following the rules.”
IRAN WAR Support the war in Iran?	Unclear. Calls Iran a “terrorist regime” and “a dangerous enemy of the United States.” Iran “cannot be allowed to have nuclear weapons.” On the ceasefire agreement in June: “If Iran honors this deal, it is excellent news.”	No. Voted six times to require Congressional authorization for U.S. military action in Iran. “The senseless war in Iran needs to end.” Opposes sending “another generation...into an open-ended war in the Middle East with...no exit strategy.”
LABOR Make it easier or harder for unions to organize workers?	No position found. Opposed lowering the threshold for overtime pay for farmworkers. Voted against wage protections for employees investigating workplace violations. In 2020 said , “I look forward to...being an advocate for all our hard-working public employees.”	Easier. “It should be easier to join a union and harder to bust one.” Sponsored the PRO Act , expanding and protecting employees’ organizing and bargaining rights. Voted to restore federal workers’ collective bargaining rights. Would “make union dues 100% tax deductible.”
LGBTQ RIGHTS Limit or expand LGBTQ rights?	Limit. Voted against a resolution for a New York constitutional amendment banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Voted against protecting access to transition-related medical care for transgender minors.	Expand. Sponsored a bill banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Sponsored a bill to fund suicide-prevention services for LGBTQ youth. “ Will never stop fighting for equality” for “LGBTQ+ communities.”
MINIMUM WAGE Raise the federal minimum from \$7.25 per hour?	Likely no. In 2023 sponsored a bill to delay increasing the NY minimum wage for 2 years. Said an increase would make it “even more expensive to do business here.” Would fight “against further minimum wage increases.” Would consider an increase if “the business community” is involved.	Yes. “ Nobody who works full time should live in or near poverty.” Supported New York raising its minimum wage: “ Congress should do the same nationally.” Said “ increasing the federal minimum wage to match New York’s” would “put Upstate New York’s farmers on a level playing field.”
TAXES Raise or lower taxes on corporations and wealthier individuals?	Lower. Voted against extending a temporary tax rate increase for the highest earning income brackets. Supported increasing “the corporate tax threshold” and “lowering the rate.” Signed a pledge opposing “all tax increases.”	Raise. Voted against extending the 2017 Trump tax cuts, which included the largest one-time cut in the corporate tax rate and large tax breaks for the wealthy . “The middle class needs a tax cut ; billionaires and big corporations don’t.”
VOTING RULES Make voting harder or easier?	Mostly harder. Would “enact statewide voter ID.” Calls for election reforms that “ensure only eligible U.S. citizens are registered to vote.” Voted against expanding absentee ballot drop-off locations. Voted to prohibit voter suppression and election-related “deceptive practices.”	Easier. Voted against requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote in a federal election and against voter ID . Opposes restrictions to mail-in voting; they’d make voting harder “in our rural communities.” Supports requiring certain states to get preapproval for changes in voting practices.

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